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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/682,434

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Masaki Yoshinari

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21254

7590

01/24/2006

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EXAMINER

HINES, ANNE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2879

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/682,434	<b>Applicant(s)</b> YOSHINARI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Anne M. Hines	<b>Art Unit</b> 2879	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

The amendment filed on November 23, 2005, has been entered and acknowledged by the Examiner.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the instant application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiba (US 2002/0171361) (of record) in view of Itokawa et al. (US 6,577,062) (of record).

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Akiba teaches an insulation layer covering an external surface of the partition wall (Fig. 1, 20-1 & 20-2; Page 5, Paragraph [0071]), the partition wall comprising metal (Fig. 1, 5; Page 5, Paragraph [0071]); a transverse wall extending in a row direction to define a partition between unit light-emission areas adjacent to each other between two substrates of the plasma display panel in a column direction (Fig. 3, 5; see portions of 5 extending parallel to line I-I). Akiba fails to teach a groove portion formed in at least one of a front-facing face and a back face of the transverse wall. Itokawa teaches a groove portion formed in at least one of a front-

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facing face and a back-facing face of partition walls for a plasma display panel (Fig. 2, 10; Column 4, lines 15-21) in order to improve the contrast of the display (Column 4, lines 15-21). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Akiba to have a groove formed in the partition wall, as disclosed by Itokawa, in order to improve the contrast of the display.

Regarding claim 2, Itokawa further teaches wherein said groove portion is formed in a configuration extending in the row direction with respect to the transverse wall (Fig. 2, 10; Fig. 3). Motivation to combine is the same as for claim 1.

Regarding claim 3, Itokawa further teaches wherein said wherein said groove portion is intermittently formed in the row direction (Fig. 4; 17 & 18; Fig. 5). Motivation to combine is the same as claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, Itokawa further teaches wherein said groove portion comprises a slot passing through the transverse wall from the front-facing face to the back face (Fig. 2, 10; Fig. 3). Motivation to combine is the same as for claim 1.

Regarding claim 5, Itokawa further teaches wherein said groove portion comprises a slot passing through the transverse wall from a front facing to the back face and intermittently formed in the row direction (Fig. 4; 17 & 18; Fig. 5). Motivation to combine is the same as claim 1.

Regarding claim 6, Itokawa further teaches wherein a dielectric is fitted into said groove portion (Fig. 2, 10c; Column 3, line 66 through Column 4, line 3). Motivation to combine is the same as for claim 1.

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Regarding claims 8 and 11, Akiba teaches an insulation layer covering an external surface of the partition wall (Fig. 1, 20-1 & 20-2; Page 5, Paragraph [0071]), the partition wall comprising metal (Fig. 1, 5; Page 5, Paragraph [0071]); a transverse wall extending in a row direction to define a partition between unit light-emission areas adjacent to each other between two substrates of the plasma display panel in a column direction (Fig. 3, 5; see portions of 5 extending parallel to line I-I). Akiba fails to teach a rod-shaped dielectric extending in the row direction and integrally mounted on the transverse wall. Itokawa teaches a rod-shaped dielectric extending in the row direction and integrally mounted on the transverse wall (Fig. 2, 10c; Fig. 3; Column 3, line 66 through Column 4, line 3) in order to improve the contrast of the display (Column 4, lines 15-21). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Akiba to have a rod-shaped dielectric extending in the row direction and integrally mounted on the transverse wall, as disclosed by Itokawa, in order to improve the contrast of the display.

Regarding claim 9, Itokawa further teaches wherein said groove portion is formed in a reverse face to a face of the transverse wall on which the dielectric is mounted (Fig. 2; Fig. 3). Motivation to combine is the same as for claim 8.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne M. Hines whose telephone number is (571) 272-2285. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Anne M Hines  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2879

*AmH*  
*1/17/06*

*msk 1/18/06*  
**MARICELI SANTIAGO**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**